UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/115
3 April 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756)]

45/115. Instrumental use of children in criminal activities

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, 2/ as well as the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 3/

Bearing in mind also the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules), 4/ the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) 5/ and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, 6/

Recalling that, in its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, it proclaimed 1994 the International Year of the Family,

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1/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

2/ Resolution 1386 (XIV).

3/ E/CONF.82/15 and Corr.2.

4/ Resolution 40/33, annex.

5/ Resolution 45/112, annex.

6/ Resolution 45/113, annex.

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Recalling and reaffirming its resolutions 43/121 of 8 December 1988 on the use of children in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and rehabilitation of drug-addicted minors, and 40/35 of 29 November 1985 on the development of standards for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/66 of 24 May 1989 on the Beijing Rules and 1990/33 of 24 May 1990 on the reduction of demand and prevention of drug consumption among young persons in the Near and Middle East,

Recognizing that within the traditional forms of child exploitation the instrumental use of children in criminal activities, especially those aimed at illicit profit making, has become an increasingly grave phenomenon,

Concerned that children are being led by adults into a criminal lifestyle, which hinders their development and denies them opportunities for a healthy and responsible role in society,

Considering that the instrumental use of children by adults in profit-making criminal activities is a grave practice that represents a violation of social norms and a deprivation of the right of children to proper development, education and upbringing and prejudices their future,

Emphasizing that categories of children, such as those who are runaway, vagrant, wayward or "street" children, are targets for exploitation, including seduction into drug trafficking and abuse, prostitution, pornography, theft, burglary, begging and homicide for reward,

1. Requests Member States and the Secretary-General to take measures with a view to formulating programmes to deal with the problem of the instrumental use of children in criminal activities and to take effective action by, inter alia:

(a) Undertaking research and a systematic analysis of the phenomenon;

(b) Developing training and awareness-raising activities in order to make law enforcement and other justice personnel, as well as policy makers, sensitive to those situations of social risk that cause children to be manipulated by adults into engaging in crime;

(c) Taking measures in combating criminality with a view to ensuring that appropriate sanctions are applied against adults who are the instigators and authors of crimes, rather than against the children involved who themselves are victims of criminality by virtue of their being exposed to crime;

(d) To develop comprehensive policies, programmes and effective preventive and remedial measures, in order to eliminate the involvement and exploitation of children by adults in criminal activities;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to study the situation in different countries and to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite the collaboration of the Centre for Human Rights and the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and other concerned institutes in the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Requests the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to consider this matter and to keep it under constant review.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990